

TILDE RUNAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Sanitary and Housing Conditions

For the Year

1947

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR. KIRKHAM 2226.



FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Sanitary and Housing Conditions

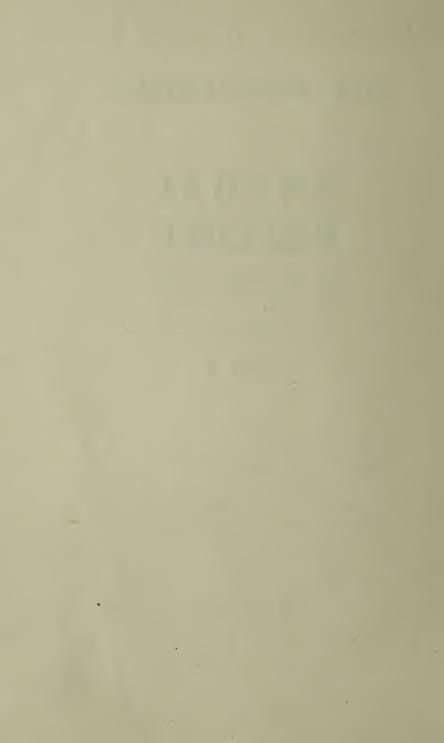
For the Year

1947

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR. KIRKHAM 2226.

Preston:
Mather Bros. (Printers) Ltd.
1 9 4 7



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the year 1947

To the Fylde Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I present to you my Eighth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. As the Council are aware, my period of office dates from 1st April, 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.—The area of the Fyide Rural District is at present 33,264 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population as per the census, 1931, was 9,217, and the estimated population (1947) 11,120: an increase of 630 over 1946.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population: Registrar-	·Genera	ıl's est	imate, 1	mid-1946 11,120
Live Births:—	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	216	107	109	
Illegitimate	12	8	4	
	228	115	113	
Birth Rate per 1,000	1947		1946	Mean for 1942-46.
estimated population:	20.5		16.5	19.1
	Total	Male	Female	
Stillbirths:	7	2	5	
Rate per 1,000 total	29		49	
(live and still births)				

Deaths:—	Total	Male	Female	
	130	67	63	3
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:			1946 12.7	Mean for 1942-46.
Deaths from puerperal	causes-	<u> </u>	947	1946
Puerperal and post-a sepsis			Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal cause	es		Nil.	Nil,
		1947	1946	Mean for 1942-46.
Maternal Death-rate petotal (live and still birth		Nil.	Nil.	0.84
total (live and still birth	115)			
Maternal Death-rate pelive births.	er 1,000	Nil.	Nil.	0.88
Death-rate of infants u	nder or	ne yea	r of age	:
		1947	1946	Mean for 1942-46.
All infants per 1,000 births		26	34	40
Legitimate infants pe legitimate births		23	18	_
Illegitimate infants p Illegitimate births			230	- marjon
Deaths from Cancer (a	ll ages)	23	19	<u></u>
Death-rate from Cancer		2.06	1.81	1.52

Nil.

Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhæa (under	THE THE LOWER WEEKS
2 years)	Nil. Nil. 77 - 74 34
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all ages)	-4 · I - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Death-rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System . o	

Causes of Death.

Disease.	•	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)			2	2
,, (Non-pulmonary)				
Influenza		I		I
Cancer of Stomach and Duoder	ium.	2.	4	6
Cancer of Breast			ı	.r. 1.
Cancer of all other sites		9 11.	. 7	16
Diabetes		I	2	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions		II	12	. 23
Heart Disorders		20	13	33
Other Circulatory Disorders		4	2	6
Bronchitis		2	I	3
Pneumonia			, 3	3
Other Respiratory Disorders		2		2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodent	ım	Ţ	. —	I
Diarrhæa (under 2 years)			<u>.</u>	
Other Digestive Disorders		 -	ı	ı I
Nephritis		3	I	. 4
Premature Birth				
Suicide		I		I
Road Traffic Accident		I	·	I
Other Violent Causes		I		I
All other Causes	• • •	5	9	14
Syphilitic Diseases	• • •	I		I
Congenital Malformations and				
Birth Diseases	•••	- - 2	5	. 7
		67	63	130
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	وأطأ المدأرة	A. A. A.	درائ بالدراء	J. J

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

- (a) For Infectious cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.
- (b) For Non-infectious Patients; and Accident Cases: A Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of necessitous non-infectious and accident cases is hired by the Council, when, required, from the Corporations of Preston and Blackpool.

There are privately owned ambulance services in Wesham, Preston and Blackpool which provide comfortable transport for those who can afford to pay the cost.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—These services are provided by the County Council and consist of a Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, which is held every Monday and Thursday morning at Mellor Road, Kirkham, from 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Child Welfare Centres are held at Mellor Road, Kirkham, 2.0—4.0 p.m. each Thursday; and at the Methodist Chapel, Kirkham Road, Freckleton, every Monday, 2.0—4.0 p.m. The staff at these clinics consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Nurse Millner, Lancashire County Council Health Visitor.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.—These are held alternate Tuesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m. A consultant obstetrician is in attendance at each session.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution,

School Clinic.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council. One of the advantages of the new scheme is that the Medical Officer of Health for the area is responsible for the School Medical Inspections.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme operated by the Lancashire County Council.

The district is largely agricultural and is on the whole a healthy area. There are no occupations which one could term to be prejudicial to health. Employment has been good throughout the year, this is reflected in the continued improvement in the health of the children as demonstrated in routine medical inspections.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION: There are three Hospitals in the District, and one Sanatorium. The Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, 64 beds, is used for Infectious Diseases. This hospital is used by the following districts: Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Fylde Rural, Kirkham, Lytham-St. Annes, and occasionally by outlying districts.

Patients are not required to contribute towards cost of treatment. The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the Rural District for the year ending March 31st, 1947, was £92 os. od., and for the year ending March 31st, 1948, £72 os. od. The cost in bed days per patient being 2s. 1od. per day.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing in the home, but three separate District Nursing Associations operate in the district. Each employs one nurse, and is self-supporting, no financial obligations falling upon the district.

LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organism has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. This Laboratory is also used for the examination of water samples and milk samples.

Specimens of sputum are sent to the Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious disease during 1947 was slight and calls for no special comment. The results of immunisation are again manifest in the incidence of diphtheria in 1947. Three cases were notified but in none of these cases was the diagnosis confirmed.

IMMUNISATION.

Children Immunised during 1947:—

Pre-School.	School.	Reinforcements.
90	5	146

Total number of pre-school children immunised to 31st December, 1947: 450

Estimated population: 900 Percentage Immunised: 51%.

Total number of school children immunised up to 31st December, 1947: 1,070.

Estimated population: 1,420. Percentage Immunised: 75%.

The above figures are satisfactory and compare favourably with the national average. Nevertheless, they can still be improved particularly those relating to the preschool child.

RESULTS OF IMMUNISATION IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

		N	o. of Cases	. No	. of Death
1938			4,571	•••	208
1939	•••		3,297	•••	157
1940	•••		2,772	•••	137
1941	•••		3,354	•••	183
1942	• • •		2,169	•••	105
1943	• · •		1,760	•••	69
1944	•••		1,450	•••	68
1945	•••	• . •	1,137	• • •	52
1946	•••		654	•••	25

65.2 per cent. of the children in the county had been immunised, leaving approximately one-third not immunised at the end of 1946.

The attack rate was 2.35 per 1,000 in the non-immunised group against .51 per 1,000 in the immunised group. The number of deaths in the two categories were 25 and nil respectively.

The above figures prove beyond all doubt that immunisation is a public health measure of first-class value and is well worth the time and trouble involved, but that we cannot be satisfied until diphtheria the Captain of Death until a decade ago, becomes as rare as the plague.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1947.

• (CA	SE					ED.			-	11	Hose	PITAL
	All	-	1			,	YE	AR	5.					1	2-:	tal
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases at	Under 1.	1.2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35 .	35-45	45-65.	65 and over.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital
Smallpox		1														
Scarlet Fever	. 19				I		12	3	2	I					19	
	. 7	1		1			1			I		4		3		
Diphtheria, including Membrane	-	,														
eous Croup				•••	• •	•••	• • • •		•••		•••	•••	•••			
Enteric Fever (including Para-		8														
typhoid) Puerperal Pyrexia	1 -]		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••	1	•••	• • • •		I	•••
Combine Call of Process	-	J	***		•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	I	•••	•••				•••
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .			1													
Dysentery		1					•••									
Encephalitis Lethargica																
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1														•••
Malaria		1														
Erysipelas					• • • •											
Chickenpox																•••
Measles and German Measles			7	8	6			3	I		•••					•••
Whooping Cough	. 13	I	2	3	3	2	2	•••		•••	•••	•••				•••
Any other disease			•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • •	•••	•••	•••	•••			•••	•••
Totals	. 104	1	9	12	10	13	4 F	7	3	3	1	4		3	20	

Housing.

There are approximately 2,800 houses in the area. Some of these houses are unfit for human habitation and many more need extensive repairs and improvements to bring them up to modern standards. The time is now approaching when a housing survey is indicated and it is anticipated that this will be accompanied by the appropriate action necessary to make defective houses conform with modern standards.

The importance of adequate housing not only from a health, but also the social point of view, can scarcely be over-emphasized. In the drive for more and better houses there is to my mind only one limiting factor, *i.e.*, the rent should not be so high as to interfere with the purchase of the necessary food and clothing by the tenant.

No less than 380 applications have been received for new Council houses. In every case the application is due to overcrowding either in a legal or a moral sense, and in many cases the circumstances set out in the applications can only be described as heart-breaking.

The social and physical evils resulting from the presence of two or more families in one house are serious, and their results will manifest themselves for many years to come.

Only 36 new houses were completed in 1947. The needs of the rural workers have now been largely met, but the plight of the non-agricultural worker remains as deplorable as ever, and until the restrictions on the type of tenant are removed, there seems to be little prospect of improvement.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Fylde Rural District is, usually, fairly good, and no action has been necessary with regard to wilful neglect or refusal to notity.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death, or removal to sanatorium, the dwellings are disinfected.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

AGE P	ERIOD	os.	1	NEW	CASE	ES .	DEATHS				
		-	Pulm	onary	No Pulm	on- onary	Pulm	onary	Non- Pulmonary		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.	
Years.				,							
0-	•••			•••			•••	•••	•••	1	
I	•••			I					•••		
5	•••				2		•••	•••	.00		
10-	•••		I			2					
15—	•••										
20	•••			•				•••	•••	•••	
25	•••	•••	2	I	•••	2			•••		
35—			2				. 2	I	1		
45-	•••	•••							٠	1	
55	•••			I	•••			I		=	
65 a nd	upwar	ds .	•••	•••	•••	•,••	•••	•••			
To	tals	•••	5	3	2	4	2	2	·		
			8 6 4							- 11	

Your obedient Servant,

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Fylde Rural District Council

WESHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Second Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

MILK SUPPLY.

The greater part of the milk produced in the area is exported to dairies in the large neighbouring towns; part is pasteurised at the plant operating in Kirkham; and the remainder, a very small portion, is sold as ordinary raw milk.

The functions under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders are carried out by the Fylde Rural Authority.

There are approximately 327 cowkeepers in the area and 72 Registered Retailers of milk. Pressure of other work does not allow of regular periodic inspection of farms and dairies as is desirable, but all complaints regarding milk supply are investigated and action taken where necessary.

A very happy co-operation exists with the County Sanitary Officers of the County Health Department, and much useful work has been done jointly with those Officers.

Results of unsatisfactory milk samples taken within the Borough are received from the County Borough of Preston, but no results are received of samples taken by the agents of the Milk Testing and Advisory Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. On the whole the milk supply of the district is good, although a systematic inspection of all farms and dairies in the area would be necessary to get a true picture of the condition of the buildings, equipment, and methods of production.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The seven licensed slaughterhouses in the district are still closed under the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughtering Regulations, and home-killed beef is secured from the abattoir at St. Annes-on-Sea.

FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year eleven visits were made in connection with food inspection, and the following goods were condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Frozen Beef	•••	• • •	•••	224	lbs
Oatmeal	•••	•••		115	,,
Fish	•••	•••		168	,,
Canned Goo	ds (Misc	ellaneo	us)	235	,,
			-		
	Total	•••	•••	742 l	bs.

Bakehouses.

There are nine bakehouses in the area, and the sanitary condition of these is satisfactory. Regular periodic inspections have been made and defects found have been remedied without the service of notices.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. o	f Middens					665
,,	Pail Closets			•••		157
,,	Fresh Water Closets			•••	•••	1,552
33	Waste Water Closets		•••	•••		12
,,	Dry Ashpits		•••	•••	•••	379
.23	Moveable Ashbins		•••			1,341
Conve	ersions to Fresh Water	Closets				23

In connection with the conversion of privy middens to fresh water closets, it is hoped that by next year all such middens in the township of Wesham will have been converted.

The figures given, with the exception of the number of conversions, are approximate. A Housing Survey of the whole district would be necessary to arrive at anything like accurate figures.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades established within the district. Bye-laws were adopted in 1886.

FACTORIES.

The number of Factories on the register at the end of the year was 63. Thirty-three visits were made and defects remedied included want of cleanliness, inadequate ventilation, and defective or insufficient sanitary accommodation.

Notifications of matters to be dealt with by the Sanitary Authority are received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. These are dealt with promptly, and satisfactory remedies have been secured in all cases.

DISINFECTION.

The number of houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease was 19. Disinfection is carried out by Formaldehyde gas, the rooms treated being sealed and left for not less than eight hours, after which time windows and doors are thrown open and the rooms given a good airing.

The Council have no apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., by steam.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Developed		Number of	
TREMISES.	Inspections	Inspections Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted:
FACTORIES with mechanical power	21 7 7	1 11	1 1
TOTAL	33	-	
DEFECTS FOUND. 10			
	Number of Defects.	f Defects.	Number of
PARTICULARS.		 Referred to H.M.	respect of which Prose- cutions were
(1) Four (2)	Found Remedied (3)	T	instituted (5)
(S. 1)	2 2		1
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	H	1	1
S.	j 	i	pro- manu
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { unsuitable or defective	-		
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences		1	
mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)	. 1	1	
TOTAL	3 4		

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

No. of Nuisances found	• • •	• • •	23
No. of Nuisances abated	• • •	• •	23
No. of Informal Notices			27
No. of Statutory Notices			4
Legal Proceedings			2,

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are 12 Licensed Sites within the area which are authorised to accommodate 339 moveable dwellings. In addition. 16 licences are in force for individual moveable dwellings. It is estimated that during the height of the Summer season something in the neighbourhood of 1,000 people are living in moveable dwellings in the district.

There has been no amendment of existing law, and the administration of that part of the Public Health Act dealing with moveable dwellings is as difficult as ever.

During the year 119 visits were made, nuisances being remedied after interviews with the owners. Legal proceedings were taken in two cases regarding the occupation of moveable dwellings without a Licence from the Council. In one case the Magistrates found in favour of the Council, and in the other against the Council.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

The Council undertakes the scavenging and collection of refuse in the Parishes of Bryning-with-Warton; Little

Eccleston-with-Larbreck; Elswick; Freckleton; Greenhalgh with-Thistleton; Medlar-with-Wesham; Newton-with-Clifton; Ribby-with-Wrea; Singleton; Westby-with-Plumpton; and Hardhorn-with-Newton.

The use of private hire for the collection of household refuse has now been dispensed with throughout the area.

There is no collection of refuse in the Parishes of Treales and Weeton.

The acquisition of an additional refuse vehicle in the middle of the year has been reflected and justified in the greatly improved service given by the scavenging department. The whole service has been re-organised so that the urbanised parishes of Wesham, Warton and Freckleton receive a weekly instead of a fortnightly collection. The number of complaints received regarding the non-collection of refuse (formerly considerable) has dropped to nil, whilst the amount of salvage collected shews a marked improvement.

It is hoped that, when the older vehicles are replaced by new wagons, this service will run smoothly, and reach roo per cent. efficiency throughout the district.

The department now consists of 3 vehicles with 3 men to each vehicle; one man is engaged upon the baling of paper and tins, and acts as relief dustman during holiday periods and in case of sickness; and one man is employed at the Refuse Tip in Weeton Road, Wesham.

Baled paper is sold to the Preston Paper Company, and baled tins to Thos. Ward & Sons, Manchester.

WATER SUPPLY.

The approximate number of houses in the district with a direct supply of water from the mains of the Fylde Water Board is 2,132 (figure kindly supplied by the Water Board). The number of houses supplied from other sources (wells, springs, etc.) is approximately 137. The district is very favourably situated with regard to the quality and quantity of its water supply.

The number of new supplies to existing houses during the year was 10, and to new houses 58.

It is anticipated that progress will be made next year with the provision of a mains supply to the Parish of Treales.

HOUSING.

(A) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year	. 58
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)):—	. 50
(i) By the Local Authority	. 36
(ii) By other Local Authorities	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	. 23
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the Local Authority (included under (a) (i) above)	- (
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii	

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	62
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	91
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	ı
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	23
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—	
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in con- sequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	29
Action under statutory powers during the year:—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	Nil.
(r) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(r) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By owners	II
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(r) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing	NT:1
Orders were made (2) Number in respect of which Closing Orders	Nil.
were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
Housing Act 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding:—	•
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year No recent Su	rvey
(2) Number of new cases reported during year Nil.	
Your obedient Servant,	

Sanitary Inspector.

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I A, C.R.S.I.,

